HISTORY SHEET OF AIYAR, VARAGANERI VENKATESA SUBRAMANIA.

This person, the eldest son of Venkatesa Aiyar, was born and brought up in Trichinopoly and educated in the local St. Joseph's College. He is a graduate of the Madras University and practised for two years at Trichinopoly as a first grade pleader. In 1907, he went to Rangoon and was subsequently persuaded to go to England to study for the bar.

In July 1908 Aiyar was found to be residing at the India House, London, and in August it was reported that he was a person who followed Savarkar's lead but was not perhaps quite so enthusiastic.

Aiyar was not heard of again till December 1908 when he was one of a committee of seven formed at the close of B. C. Pal's meeting of December 18th to arrange for the conference held in London as a protest against the prohibition of the Extremist Congress at Nagpur.

On January 3rd, 1909, at the usual Sunday meeting at the India House Aiyar delivered an address in which he compared the present state of India with that of Italy before the war of liberation. He said that when a nation was oppressed by foreign conquerors, when its ambitions were curbed by despotic power and the liberty of the press taken away, secret societies were bound to arise as they arose in Italy under Garibaldi. These secret societies would lead to the cherished object of the Nationalists, *viz.*, Absolute self-Government. The more the Government tried to suppress them the stronger would they become.

Next week Aiyar, who was still a boarder at the India House, was in the chair at the usual meeting, and a certain Mr. Israni made a speech denouncing the extremists' propaganda and in favour of open and constitutional agitation rather than the methods of secret societies. His speech was received with a good deal of derisive laughter, and at the close Aiyar said, " We have given a hearing to one of the opposite camp, and the views put forth by him require no comment." He went on to say that he hoped the lecturer would become wiser and change his views. He further strongly recommended him to read an article " Black men and white women " in a recent number of " London Opinion."

Aiyar was present at the meeting of the London Indian Society on January the 23rd, and was one of the most prominent opponents of the proposal to expel Pathar from

the Society for distributing seditious leaflets to the members at a previous general meeting.

Aiyar was present at the India House meetings on January 24th and 31st at which Dr. Rajan lectured on "Scouting" and he took part in the discussion which followed on the second occasion.

On February 6th he was present at a meeting of the Indo-Egyptian Nationalist Association and on the 7th he attended the Sunday meeting at the India House. At the meeting of the 14th presided over by Haidar Raza, Aiyar took a prominent part in the discussion which followed Savarkar's speech on Nationalism; he also spoke at a similar meeting on February 28th.

On March 21st he attended the lecture by Savarkar on the Indian Mutiny and the present need for a similar rising, and made at the close a speech in support of the lecturer.

At the Sunday meeting on April 11th Aiyar read an account of the Indian Mutiny as it occurred at Meerut and Lucknow; the bravery of the Indian sepoys, who fought without proper arms and ammunition, and the cowardice of the British being specially pointed out. A week or two later it was reported that he was helping Savarkar with his book on the Mutiny, the proofs of which are said to have been corrected by him, and it was doubtless a selection from that book which he read on this occasion. It was evidently from the same book that Aiyar and Savarkar read selections at the meeting held on Sunday, May 2nd, giving an account of Rani Lukshmi Bai's exploits and daring deeds during the war of Independence in 1857. Portraits of the Nana Sahib were passed round at this meeting and it was arranged that copies should be sent to New York, Paris and India for distribution.

Aiyar took a prominent part in the meeting held on May 9th to arrange for the Mutiny celebration at the India House and also in the celebration itself held next day; he and Savarkar were the principal speakers at the India House meeting of May 23rd and he was then recognised as one of Savarkar's right hand men.

In a report dated the 18th June it was stated that the India House was practically deserted and that Aiyar was in charge until Shyamji Krishna Varma decided what to do with the property. At this time Aiyar and Rajan were the only two payinfl boarders.

Aiyar's connection with the murder of Sir William Curzon-Wyllie has been referred to in the general memorandum. After the murder he went to reside at 17, Red Lion Passage, where he has remained since.